

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6948

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 1596

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FOR WYROUGH ARA/PAN FROM BLACKEN

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PN, PQ

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - LANDS AND WATERS USE REQUIREMENTS
FOR OTHER USG AGENCIES III - SMITHSONIAN

1. THIS IS THE THIRD IN A SERIES OF MESSAGES ON THIS
SUBJECT, AND PROVIDES DETAILED INFORMATION AS TO THE LANDS
AND WATERS CURRENTLY IN USE AND REQUIRED BY THE SMITHSONIAN
TROPICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

2. TOTAL REQUIREMENTS: LANDS AND WATERS CURRENTLY HELD BY
STRI UNDER LAND LICENSE FROM CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY
USE PERMIT OR (SEE BELOW) ACT OF CONGRESS TOTAL APPROXI-
MATELY 6217 ACRES WITHIN CANAL ZONE, INCLUDING FOUR
BIOLOGICAL RESERVES AND BUILDINGS OR FACILITIES AT FIVE
OTHER LOCATIONS. IN ADDITION, STRI HAS CERTAIN DEFINED
ACCESS RIGHTS AS SPECIFIED BELOW, AND REQUIRES ASSURANCE
OF GENERALLY UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO LANDS AND WATERS
AREAS FOR PURPOSES OF BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN VICINITY OF
ITS FACILITIES AND ELSEWHERE.

3. GENERAL: ALL OF THE LANDS AND WATERS, AND FACILITIES,
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SPECIFIED BELOW ARE USED FOR LABORATORIES, SHOPS, STORAGE

OR OFFICE SPACE IN CONNECTION WITH TROPICAL BIOLOGICAL RESEARCH CARRIED OUT ON THE ISTHMUS BY STRI. NONE OF THIS SPACE IS PERMANENT LIVING QUARTERS, ALTHOUGH SOME PARCELS DO PROVIDE TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATIONS FOR VISITING SCIENTISTS AND/OR FOR PERMANENT PERSONNEL WHO MUST REMAIN AT A REMOTE LOCATION ON BUSINESS OVERNIGHT OR LONGER. THE BULK OF THE LAND AREA SPECIFIED CONSTITUTES BIOLOGICAL RESERVES, AND STRI DESIRES IN PARTICULAR TO OBTAIN ASSURANCE THAT THESE RESERVES WILL CONTINUE TO BE PRESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

4. SPECIAL SITUATION OF BARRO COLORADO ISLAND: STRI POINTS OUT THAT IT IS IN UNIQUE POSITION OF BEING ONLY ENTITY IN CANAL ZONE WHICH HOLDS ONE PARCEL OF LAND NOT FROM GOVERNOR BUT BY SPECIAL ACT OF CONGRESS (OF JULY 2, 1940) WHICH DIRECTED PRESIDENT TO SET ASIDE BARRO COLORADO ISLAND (DEFINED BELOW) IN GATUN LAKE AREA IN WHICH NATURAL FEATURES SHALL BE LEFT IN NATURAL STATE FOR SCIENTIFIC STUDY AND OBSERVATION, EXCEPT IN EVENT OF DECLARED NATIONAL EMERGENCY. STRI CONSIDERS PRESERVATION OF BARRO COLORADO AS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE TO SCIENCE. AS ITS USE FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE WOULD DESTROY, IN STRI VIEW, RESULTS OF 60 YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH. IN VIEW OF THIS SPECIAL SITUATION, STRI INQUIRED WHETHER U.S. TREATY NEGOTIATORS MIGHT WISH TO SEEK SPECIAL MENTION OF THIS RESERVE IN TREATY PROPER, AND ASSURANCE FROM PANAMA THAT IT WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN NATURAL STATE. STRI OBSERVED THAT FROM ITS VIEWPOINT, THIS OR ANY OTHER ARRANGEMENT WHICH PRESERVED NATURAL CHARACTER OF ISLAND WOULD BE SATISFACTORY TO ACCOMPLISH ITS SCIENTIFIC OBJECTIVES, BUT THAT SINCE CONGRESS FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH TO PASS SPECIAL LAW ON THIS SUBJECT, EXECUTIVE BRANCH MIGHT FIND THAT SPECIAL TREATMENT FOR IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY ADVANTAGEOUS WHEN NEW TREATY IS CONSIDERED FOR RATIFICATION. EMBASSY NOTED TO STRI THAT WHILE PANAMA WOULD PRESUMABLY HAVE NO OBJECTION (WE KNOW OF NONE WHICH HAS EVER BEEN MENTIONED) TO PRESERVING BARRO COLORADO UNDER PANAMANIAN JURISDICTION, PANAMA MIGHT FIND IT UNACCEPTABLE TO HAVE TO UNDERTAKE COMMITMENT TO U.S. IN FORMAL TREATY LANGUAGE TO DO THIS.

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EMBASSY INFORMED STRI THAT WE WOULD PASS THEIR SUGGESTION ALONG TO U.S. NEGOTIATORS, AND THAT IN ANY EVENT WE EXPECTED THAT ANY SPECIAL LAND USE REGIME RELATING TO STRI BIOLOGICAL RESERVES, INCLUDING BARRO COLORADO, WOULD INCLUDE AS A USG PRIORITY OBJECTIVE OBTAINING ADEQUATE ASSURANCE FROM PANAMA THAT NATURAL CHARACTER OF SUCH RESERVES WOULD BE PRESERVED.

5. FOLLOWING IS LISTING OF FACILITIES, LANDS AND WATERS
AREAS CURRENTLY IN USE BY STRI:

6. STRI HEADQUARTERS, SHOPS, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES,
LABORATORIES, IN ONE STRUCTURE LOCATED ON GORGAS ROAD,
ADJACENT TO GORGAS HOSPITAL, AT COORDINATES PV 597908
(SHEET 4242 I, PANAMA). PARCEL INCLUDES STRUCTURE OF
6387 SQUARE FEET AND ADDITIONAL 3000 SQUARE FEET OF
CAGES.

7. TIVOLI SITE: PARCEL BEING RENOVATED FOR USE BY STRI
COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 4.8 ACRES ON SITE OF FORMER
TIVOLI HOTEL, AND ADJACENT TIVOLI KITCHEN STRUCTURE
OF APPROXIMATELY 4680 SQUARE FEET, LOCATED AT COORDINATES
PV 601909 (SHEET 4242 I, PANAMA), ADJACENT TO FOURTH
OF JULY AVENUE.

8. CURUNDU TRAILER SITE: 3 NONCONTIGUOUS CONCRETE
PADS COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 15,000 SQUARE FEET LOCATED
AT COORDINATES PV 599934 (SHEET 4242 I, PANAMA) TO BE
USED FOR STORAGE, OFFICES AND TRANSIENT VISITOR QUARTERS.

9. NAOS ISLAND: COMPLEX OF LABORATORY AND SHOP FACILITIES,
WITH PIER, COMPRISING IN TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 50,000MMV
SQUARE FEET IN NONCONTIGUOUS PARCELS INCLUDING AT LEAST
10 SEPARATE STRUCTURES, CONCRETE PAD AREAS AND PIER,
LOCATED IN AREA SURROUNDING COORDINATES PV 613857
(SHEET 4242 I, PANAMA) GENERALLY ADJACENT TO CAUSEWAY.
EMBASSY NOTES THAT NONCONTIGUOUS PARCELS INVOLVING USE
OF STRUCTURES ONLY IS FEASIBLE AT THIS LOCATION LARGELY
BECAUSE NAOS ISLAND IS U.S. MILITARY RESERVATION, (FT. GRANT)
INSURING STRI ADEQUATE ACCESS TO ITS FACILITIES AND TO WATER.
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ALTHOUGH STRI UNABLE TO ADVISE WHETHER SUCH CHANGE
WOULD BE DESIRABLE (DIRECTOR IS IN WASHINGTON AND WILL
NOT RETURN UNTIL NEXT WEEK), EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT US
MIGHT CONSIDER REQUESTING ASSURANCE OF USE OF SINGLE
PARCEL COMPRISING ALL LANDS AND BUILDINGS ON NAOS ISLAND
COMPLEX CURRENTLY IN USE BY STRI.

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ACTION ARA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 SS-14 L-01 INR-05 OES-02 SAB-01

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R 051930Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6949

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10. FLAMENCO ISLAND: TWO STRUCTURES ON NONCONTIGUOUS PARCELS TOTALING APPROXIMATELY 375 SQUARE FEET LOCATED AT COORDINATES PV 627849. SITUATION ON FLAMENCO IS SIMILAR TO THAT ON NAOS ISLAND; STRI USE OF STRUCTURES IS FEASIBLE SINCE LAND SURROUNDING IS US MILITARY RESERVATION OF WHICH STRI HAS UNRESTRICTED USE.

11. BARRO COLORADO ISLAND: ISLAND HELD BY STRI UNDER ACT OF CONGRESS CITED ABOVE, LOCATED IN GATUN LAKE, COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 3654 ACRES GENERALLY LOCATED BETWEEN 24 AND 30 NORTH-SOUTH AND 095 AND 135 EAST-WEST GRID LINES ON MAP SHEET 4243 III, ESCOBAL, AND BETWEEN 24 AND 29 NORTH-SOUTH AND 135 AND 15 EAST-WEST GRID LINES ON MAP SHEET 4243 IV, GATUN. HOLDING INCLUDES ISLAND AND IMMEDIATELY CONTIGUOUS WATERS WITH BOUNDARY PROVIDED BY STRI LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY DOUBLE BROKEN LINE DESIGNATED "CANAL APROXIMADO" ON MAP. HOLDING ALSO INCLUDES, UNDER SEPARATE LAND LICENSES, CLOSELY ADJACENT ORCHID AND SALUD POINT ISLANDS, WHICH TOGETHER COMPRISE 39 ACRES, LOCATED AT COORDINATES PA 265146 AND PA 276144, RESPECTIVELY. ISLAND IS LARGELY NATURAL BIOLOGICAL RESERVE, BUT INCLUDES NUMBER OF STRUCTURES ERECTED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRI OVER THE YEARS FOR SHOPS, LABORATORIES AND OTHER FACILITIES RELATED TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON ISLAND AND IN AREA.

12. BOHIO, BUENA VISTA AND FRIJOLES POINTS: THREE POINTS TOGETHER COMPRISING APPROXIMATELY 2480 ACRES, HELD UNDER LAND LICENSE AS BIOLOGICAL RESERVES COMPLIMENTARY TO BARRO COLORADO. THERE ARE NO STRUCTURES IN THESE AREAS. BOUNDARIES OF HOLDINGS AS PROVIDED BY STRI INCLUDE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT WATER AREAS, GENERALLY DRAWN FROM POINTS OF GREATEST LAND EXTENSION TO INCLUDE WATERS IN COVES OR INLETS. INDIVIDUAL HOLDINGS ARE LOCATED AND DEFINED GENERALLY AS FOLLOWS:

A. BOHIO POINT: ALL LAND AREA FROM POINT ITSELF AT COORDINATES PA 255154 (SHEET 4243 IV, GATUN) NORTH AND EAST TO THE PANAMA RAILROAD EMBANKMENT, EXCLUSIVE, INCLUDES SMALL ISLAND LOCATED AT COORDINATES PA 265175.

B. BUENA VISTA POINT: ALL LAND AREA FROM POINT ITSELF AT COORDINATED PA 281146 (SHEET 4243 IV, GATUN) NORTH AND EAST TO THE PANAMA RAILROAD EMBANKMENT, EXCLUSIVE. INCLUDES SMALL ISLAND LOCATED AT COORDINATES PA 285153.

C. FRIJOLES POINT: ALL LAND AREA FROM POINT ITSELF AT COORDINATES PA 311129 (SHEET 4243 III, ESCOBAL) EASTWARD TO THE 32 NORTH-SOUTH GRID LINE INDICATED ON THE MAP SHEET.

13. PIPELINE ROAD RESERVE: PARCEL OF APPROXIMATELY 37 ACRES OF LAND, INCLUDING NO STRUCTURES, LOCATED AT COORDINATES PA 391116 (SHEET 4243 II, GAMBOA). AREA IS LARGELY SECOND-GROWTH TIMBER, AND IS UTILIZED AS BIOLOGICAL RESERVE FOR BASELINE STUDIES ON MAINLAND FOR COMPARISON WITH BARRO COLORADO STUDIES.

14. GALETA ISLAND COMPLEX: COMPRISES TWO STRUCTURES WITH A TOTAL AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 0.28 ACRE IN THE VICINITY OF COORDINATES PA 251395 (SHEET 4244 III, COLON, AND ONE OTHER NON-CONTIGUOUS STRUCTURE WITH AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 2,700 SQUARE FEET INCLUDING ACCESS RIGHTS TO GALETA POINT. SITUATION IN THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AREA IS SOMEWHAT COMPARABLE TO NAOSISLAND, IN THAT WHILE STRI FORMALLY HOLDS ONLY USE OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS IN QUESTION, ITS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH PURPOSES CAN ONLY BE SERVED IF IT POSSESSES UNIMPEDED ACCESS TO GALETA POINT AND TO ITS LABORATORY BUILDINGS.

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